

V. REMARKS

Claims 5, 10, 16 and 38 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Uchida (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,161) in view of Ahuja (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,529). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Uchida teaches an image processing device that includes a plurality of distinct image frame memories and a control device. The plurality of distinct image frame memories is operatively connected to a single image processor for effecting image processing by the image processor by concurrently and repeatedly executing reading, image processing and outputting functions for input image data. The control device external to said single image processor writes original test data to and reads image data written from each of said memories. The control device compares said original written test data with said read image data written from said memories to determine whether each of said memories is operating in a normal manner. If at least one of said memories is judged abnormal due to the disagreement in the compared data, said control device switches said reading, image processing and outputting functions previously performed by said now abnormal memory to the remaining memories, which concurrently execute the functions in order to effect image processing by the image processor. The control device transmits information of the abnormal memory to an operator and informs the operator of possible image sizes which can still be processed by said remaining memories.

Ahuja discloses a surge protector for protecting electrical equipment connected on its load side from spurious or excessive transient voltages or surges or both on an electrical line above a predetermined value, on its line side or its hot side. A fuse is used to monitor a fault current flowing into a surge voltage suppression device, due to an excessive voltage across the suppression device. Thus, the fuse blows resulting from an over-current condition and it disables and opens a solid state switch or an electro mechanical switch mounted in series in the line thus protecting the secondary or the load side from over-voltages and transient surges on the electrical line.

Claim 5, as amended, is directed to an electrically-grounded gaming machine that includes a display device, a display control device, an image control device, an image state keeping device, a power source feeding device and a power source relay device. Claim 5 recites that the display control device controls the display device to display an image relating to a game and the image control device has the display control device. Also, claim 5 recites that the image state keeping device monitors a signal of an image fed from the display control device, detects whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and controls the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image. Claim 5 further recites that the power source relay device relays power fed from the power source feeding device so as to independently supply the power to the image control device, the image state keeping device and the display device. Additionally, claim 5 recites that, if the power source relay device fails to feed the relayed power to the display device while the power source feeding device remains operative, the power source relay device is operative to feed the relayed power to the image control device and the image state keeping device. Furthermore, claim 5 recites that the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 5 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is allowable over the applied art.

This claimed feature of the invention is a countermeasure against static electricity as described in the specification. For instance, on page 10, in paragraphs 2 and 3, it states:

According to (9), "the image display unit is built in the upper portion of the gaming machine". Therefore, the image display unit is built not in the lower portion, which may contact with the player but in the upper portion of the gaming machine under consideration. Therefore, the image display unit is hardly influenced by the static electricity, as might otherwise be generated by the contact with the player.

On the other hand, the static electricity may occur frequently especially in dry areas other than those of Japan. Even in case the static electricity occurs, the image state keeping board is disposed in the upper portion of the gaming machine so that the static electricity generated does not reach the image state keeping board but may highly possibly flow into the earth attached to the cabinet. Thus, the construction is effective for the countermeasures against the static electricity.

Beginning on page 38, in the last paragraph and continuing onto page 39 to paragraph 4, and as illustrated in Figure 5, it states:

On the other hand, the aforementioned subsidiary control board 74 and scale board 76 are arranged in the upper portion of the door 13.

In short, the image state keeping unit thus far described is built in the upper portion of the gaming machine under consideration. Therefore, the image state keeping unit is not located in such a lower portion of the gaming machine as might otherwise be contacted by the

player, so that it is hardly influenced by the static electricity to be generated by the contact with the player.

On the other hand, the image signal control unit thus far described is built in the upper portion of the gaming machine under consideration. Therefore, the image signal control unit is not in the lower portion, as might be contacted by the player, of the gaming machine but in the upper portion of the gaming machine so that it is hardly influenced by the static electricity, as might otherwise be generated by the contact with the player.

Moreover, the image display unit is built in the upper portion of the gaming machine under consideration and has little contact with the player so that it is hardly influenced by the static electricity, as might otherwise be generated by the contact with the player.

With the construction thus far described, on the other hand, the static electricity may occur frequently especially in dry areas other than those of Japan. Even in case the static electricity occurs, the image state keeping unit is disposed in the upper portion of the gaming machine so that the static electricity generated does not reach the image state keeping area but may highly possibly flow into the earth attached to the cabinet. Thus, the construction is effective for countermeasures against the static electricity.

Claim 10, as amended, is directed to a display device apparatus for an electrically-grounded gaming machine including a display device, an image control device having the display control device, a display control device for controlling the display device to display an image relating to a game, an image state keeping device, a power source feeding device and a power source relay device. Claim 10 recites that the image state keeping device monitoring a signal of an image fed from the display control device, detects whether the signal is in a normal state thereby

rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and controls the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image. Claim 10 further recites that the power source relay device relays power fed from the power source feeding device to independently supply the power to the display device, the image state keeping device and the image control device. Furthermore, claim 10 recites that the image state keeping device monitors a signal of an image fed from the display control device, detects whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and controls the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image. Additionally, claim 10 recites that, if the power source relay device fails to feed the relayed power to the display device while the power source feeding device remains operative, the power source relay device is operative to feed the relayed power to the image control device and the image state keeping device. Furthermore, claim 10 recites that the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine.

For the same reasons claim 5 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 10 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 16, as amended, is directed to a display device apparatus for an electrically-grounded gaming machine that includes a display device, a display

control device for controlling the display device to display an image relating to a game, an image control device having the display control device, and image state keeping device and a power source feeding device. Claim 16 recites that the image state keeping device monitors a signal of an image fed from the display control device, detects whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image and controls the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image. Claim 16 further recites that the power source feeding device feeds power to the display device, the image state keeping device and the image control device independently from each other. Additionally, claim 16 recites that, if the power source feeding device fails to feed power to the display device while the power source feeding device remains operative, the power source feeding device is operative to feed power to the image control device and the image state keeping device. Furthermore, claim 16 recites that the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine.

For the same reasons claim 5 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 16 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the image control device is built in and connected to an upper portion of the electrically-grounded gaming machine. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 9 is canceled because its features are now incorporated into claims 5, 10 and 16.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 9 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433) in view of Uchida and Ahuja . The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose reveals a spinning reel slot machine that includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. The plurality of mechanical rotatable reels, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image overlaying the reels with the video image interacting with the symbols on the reels. The video display is a flat panel transmissive display, in the form of a liquid crystal display, positioned in front of the reels.

Claim 7 and 38-40 depend from claim 5 and includes all of the features of claim 5. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 5 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 41 depends from claim 10 and includes all of the features of claim 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 10 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

As mentioned, claim 9 is canceled.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Response is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

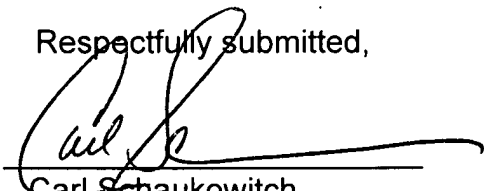
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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